

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 09975 300652Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-05

/088 W

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P R 300608Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4712

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, YE

SUBJECT: YAR-ROK RELATIONS

REF: (A) SANA 3473 (NOTAL, (B) SANA 3631 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE REF A WITH MOFA MID EAST DIVISION CHIEF YI CHONG-PIN DECEMBER 11. YI TOOK MATTER UP WITH ASST. MINISTER FOR ECON AFFAIRS KIM TONG-HWI THAT AFTERNOON AND ON DECEMBER 12 ADVISED EMBASSY THAT WHILE FONOFF CANNOT PRE-JUDGE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS ON ROCK SALT, ATMOSPHERE IS VERY FAVORABLE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND RESIDENT MISSION IN SANA.

2. YI SUGGESTED THAT BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BY SPRING OF 1976 COULD BE CREATED BY VISIT TO SEOUL BY FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ AND/OR DEPUTY PM GEGHMAN IN RESPONSE TO ROK INVITATION IN LETTER OF JUNE 18, 1975, AND ASNAJ LETTER IN REPLY ACCEPTING IN PRINCIPLE ON AUGUST 7, 1975.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 09975 300652Z

3. YI'S INITIAL INCLINATION WAS TO CONTINUE TO USE USG AS

INTERMEDIARY WITH YARG, BASED PARTLY ON DIFFICULTY ROK AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA HAS IN GETTING BACK AND FORTH TO SANA. EMBOFF, IN SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS, DISCOURAGED THIS APPROACH, POINTING OUT THAT ROK'S INTERESTS WERE MORE AT STAKE THAN THOSE OF YARG, THAT IN ABSENCE OF ROKG DECISION TO MEET COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE 50,000 TONS ROCK SALT YEARLY U.S. AMBASSADOR COULD NOT IN GOOD FAITH URGE YARG TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO BREAK IMPASSE AND THAT TIME WAS IMPORTANT IN THIS MATTER AND THE SOONER ROKG AND YARG GOT INTO DIRECT CONTACT THE SOONER ROKG COULD GET ON WITH MAKING INROADS INTO PRO NORTH KOREAN UNGA VOTE.

4. REF B PROVIDED EXCELLENT VEHICLE FOR BREAKING LOG-JAM AND EMBOFF AGAIN APPROACHED YI DECEMBER 29 STRESSING NEED FOR ROKG TO RESUME CONTACT WITH YARG. EMBOFF ALSO DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH UN DIVISION CHIEF YI SI-YONG. BOTH ACKNOWLEDGED NEED TO TAKE EARLY ACTION BUT POINTED OUT THAT CABINET RESHUFFLE DECEMBER 19 AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, PAK TONG-CHIN, HAD INEVITABLY SLOWED PROCESS OF LAUNCHING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES. YI SI-YONG SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD TAKE MATTER UP WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TREATIES BUREAU DIRECTOR HAN WU-SUK AND URGE HIM TO PRESENT ISSUE TO FOREIGN MINISTER PAK. HAN WILL PROBABLY BE BRIEFING PAK ON SUBSTANCE OF UN ACTIVITIES AND MOFA STAFF ANALYSIS OF 30TH UNGA VOTE OUTCOME THIS WEEK, WHICH SHOULD PRESENT OPPORTUNITY RAISE THIS ISSUE. YI TONG-PIN ALSO SAID HE WOULD RAISE ISSUE WITH MINISTER, FOR WHOM HE WORKED IN ROK MISSION IN NEW YORK.

5. DIFFICULT TO TELL AT THIS JUNCTURE WHEN ROKG WILL RESUME EFFORT IN YAR. PART OF PROBLEM, EVEN AMONG THOSE WHO ACKNOWLEDGE NEED FOR ACTION, HAS BEEN AWKWARD SITUATION CREATED FOR ROK BY MAKKI'S REFUSAL TO CARRY OUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH LEAVES ROK OSTENSIBLY REBUFFED BY YAR. HOPEFULLY, INFO REF B WILL OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM. ADDITIONAL PROBLEM HAS BEEN CREATED BY ARRIVAL OF NEW FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-CHIN, WHO HEADED ROK MISSION IN NEW YORK. PAK HAS BEEN SAYING PRIVATELY WITHIN MOFA THAT ROKG HAS NOT PURSUED UN EFFORT EFFICIENTLY, AND MOFA OFFICIALS ARE A LITTLE RELUCTANT TO COME UP WITH UN-RELATED INITIATIVES UNTIL THEY FIGURE OUT WHAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 09975 300652Z

PAK HAS IN MIND. ALTHOUGH MOFA MACHINERY NOW APPARENTLY SET IN MOTION, YARG GESTURE, SUCH AS CONTACTING ROK AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA TO SET DATE FOR ASNAJ OR GEGHMAN VISIT TO SEOUL WOULD SPEED PROCESS CONSIDERABLY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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